

Comments

The Examiner has allowed claims 1-7 and has rejected claims 8-18. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has cited U. S. Patent 2,178,847 to Baker et al., as anticipating claims 8-12 and 15-18 and has cited the Baker et al. patent as the primary reference for rejecting claims 13 and 14 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103. Those rejections are respectfully traversed. Claim 8 has been amended to make it clear that the cementing plug will be received in a passageway defined by the inner sleeve so that the inner surface of the inner sleeve engages the cementing plug to limit rotation thereof. Claim 15 has been similarly amended. The Baker et al. patent does not disclose a sleeve that engages a cementing plug to limit the rotation thereof during drillout. Rather, Baker et al. discloses nothing more than a stop for a cementing plug wherein the stop engages the bottom of the cementing plug. Pressure on the cementing plug causes an interaction between the pieces of the stop. An expanding cone 12 is pushed downwardly which forces slips 11 outwardly to engage the casing and thereby prevent the plug from moving downwardly. There is no sleeve that receives a plug or limits the rotation of a plug. The claims rejected by the Examiner have been amended so that they clearly require the engagement of the plug to prevent rotation thereof and require that the plug be received in the sleeve. No such features are disclosed by Baker et al., or by U. S. Patent 6,056,053 to Giroux et al., which the Examiner has utilized in his obviousness rejection of claims 13 and 14. As such, claims 8 and 15 and all of the claims that depend therefrom should be allowed over the prior art.

Conclusion

Accordingly, and for the reasons set forth herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration along with an early indication of the allowance of claims 8-18 along with previously allowed claims 1-7.

Respectfully submitted,



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